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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE 0000

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E.O. 12065:GDS 9-10-86(ADAMS, M.M. JR)

AGS: OAS, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE INITIATIVE TO HOST OASGA

1. IN RESPONSE TO ARGENTINE REQUEST, MADE BY PERM REP QUIJANO, FOR US REACTION TO A POSSIBLE ARGENTINE PROPOSAL TO HOST OASGA IN NOVEMBER 1990 (QUIJANO STATED THAT HE WAS TAKING SOUNDINGS WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AMONG NUMBER OF OAS MISSIONS), USOAS DEPUTY PERM REP THOMPSON MET WITH QUIJANO JUNE ,1 AND MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL SUPPORT ARGENTINA AS HOST OF THIS YEAR'S OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ASSUMING ITS INVITATION ENJOYS MAJORITY SUPPORT INCLUDING THE LARGER MEMBERS.

-- WE HOPE ARGENTINA WILL SEE OUR SUPPORT AS A MAJOR STEP IN OUR GENERAL EFFORT TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR RECENT INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE TIES BETWEEN US. BILL BOWDLER AND HIS PEOPLE WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS IN DEPTH WITH AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL.

-- THE SECRETARY HAS TENTATIVELY COMMITTED HIMSELF TO ATTEND THE MEETING AGAIN THIS YEAR; HOWEVER, DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN NOW AND THE ASSEMBLY COULD AFFECT THIS.

-- WE ASSUME THE GOA HAS ALREADY CONCLUDED THAT A SUCCESSFUL MEETING COULD ONLY BE HELD IN BUENOS AIRES IF THE TREND OF ARGENTINE PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONTINUES. THAT IS OUR VIEW.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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PAGE 01

TOR:164/00:23Z

DTG:112302Z JUN 80

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-- ADDITIONAL DISAPPEARANCES WOULD MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, FOR THE SECRETARY TO ATTEND THE MEETING.

-- ON THE OTHER HAND, THE END OF DISAPPEARANCES AND SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN THE PEN PRISONER POPULATION WOULD PROVIDE A VERY POSITIVE TONE IN WHICH THE MEETING COULD BE HELD.

-- IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE KNOW IN ADVANCE THAT THE GOA WILL ACCEPT A CONSTRUCTIVE GA RESOLUTION ON THE IAHRC REPORT. BY THIS WE MEAN A RESOLUTION WHICH RECOGNIZES 1) THE ROLE OF THE IAHRC, AND 2) THE NEED FOR CONTINUING IMPROVEMENTS. WE ARE READY TO EXPLORE WITH YOUR MISSION LANGUAGE WHICH ACCOMPLISHES THIS.

2. IN DISCUSSING POINT ON GOA ACCEPTANCE OF A CONSTRUCTIVE GA RESOLUTION ON IAHRC REPORT, THOMPSON EMPHASIZED THAT USOAS IS WILLING TO WORK WITH ARGENTINE MISSION ON SPECIFICS OF A RESOLUTION. (OUR HOPE IS THAT ARGENTINES WOULD THROUGH CONSULTATIONS HERE GAIN SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT ON AN ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION, THEREBY AVOIDING TO A LARGE EXTENT LONG AND BITTER DEBATE DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY ITSELF.) QUIJANO SAID THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS ON A CONSTRUCTIVE RESOLUTION WITH THE USOAS AND WOULD BE BACK TO US SOON. HE THANKED THOMPSON FOR DETAILED AND SPECIFIC REPLY TO HIS REQUEST FOR A SOUNDING OF US VIEWS, WHICH HE WOULD CONVEY TO GOA PROMPTLY.

3. AMBASSADOR BOWDLER PLANS TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL ON JUNE 12:

-- AS YOU KNOW, DEPUTY PERM REP THOMPSON HAS INFORMED AMBASSADOR QUIJANO THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL SUPPORT ARGENTINA AS HOST OF THIS YEAR'S OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

-- OUR SUPPORT COMES AS PART OF OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN US.

-- I ALSO BELIEVE THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ARGENTINA TO PRESENT TO LATIN AMERICA A NEW IMAGE, ONE IN WHICH THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM HAS BECOME LARGELY A THING OF THE PAST.

-- ALTHOUGH THE GOA HAS COME A LONG WAY TOWARD SOLVING

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ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS, NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS. IN FACT, WITHOUT SUCH IMPROVEMENTS IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD A SUCCESSFUL OAS MEETING.

-- IN PREPARING FOR THE OASGA, IT WOULD BE IN ARGENTINA'S OWN INTEREST TO RELEASE OR REMAND TO CIVILIAN TRIAL AS MANY OF THE PEN PRISONERS AS POSSIBLE.

-- WE CONTINUE TO HEAR THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS WITH PRISON CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH EXECUTIVE DETAINEES ARE BEING HELD. I HOPE THE DECREE PUBLISHED LAST MONTH ANNOUNCING A CHANGE IN REGULATIONS FOR THESE PRISONERS WILL LEAD TO IMPROVEMENTS IN CONSULAR ACCESS, VISITING RIGHTS, FOOD, ACCESS TO READING MATERIALS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORK.

-- AS YOU KNOW, THE PROBLEM OF MISSING PERSONS IS RECEIVING INCREASED ATTENTION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE UN. WE HOPE ARGENTINA WILL COOPERATE WITH THESE MULTILATERAL EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY WITH THE UN'S NEW EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON DISAPPEARED PERSONS.

-- AS MR. THOMPSON TOLD AMBASSADOR QUIJANO, THE SECRETARY HAS TENTATIVELY COMMITTED HIMSELF TO ATTEND THE MEETING THIS YEAR. THIS WAS A DIFFICULT DECISION, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF OUR SUPPORT OF THE IAHRC'S EFFORTS IN ARGENTINA AND IN VIEW OF ARGENTINA'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE IAHRC REPORT.

-- IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE KNOW IN ADVANCE THAT THE GOA WILL ACCEPT A CONSTRUCTIVE GA RESOLUTION ON THE IAHRC REPORT. BY THIS WE MEAN A RESOLUTION WHICH RECOGNIZES 1) THE ROLE OF THE IAHRC, AND 2) THE NEED FOR CONTINUING IMPROVEMENTS.

-- MOREOVER, WE HAVE RECEIVED REPEATED ASSURANCES FROM THE GOA THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MORE DISAPPEARANCES. ADDITIONAL DISAPPEARANCES BETWEEN NOW AND THE ASSEMBLY WOULD MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, FOR THERE TO BE A SUCCESSFUL MEETING AND FOR THE SECRETARY TO ATTEND.

-- IF CONVENIENT TO THE GOA, I (AMBASSADOR BOWDLER) WOULD LIKE TO VISIT BUENOS AIRES TO CONTINUE THE CONSULTATIO BEGUN BY GENERAL GOODPASTER AND AMBASSADOR SMITH BUT ALSO TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO TRY TO RESOLVE THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US.

-- I (AMBASSADOR BOWDLER) HOPE TO ADDRESS THESE AND

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PAGE 23

TOR:164/20:23Z

DTG:112302Z JUN 80

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